

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 PRS-01 /027 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:WJKUSHLIS:JLR

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY

USIA/IEU:SDEMITZ (INFO)

USIA/ICS:WDAVIS (INFO)

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R 101733Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: 1977 SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT

REF: MOSCOW 4595

1. AT SOVIET REQUEST, A DEPARTMENT OFFICER ACCOMPANIED SOVIET DELEGATION LOOKING FOR A SITE FOR THE 1977 SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT TO CHICAGO. DELEGATION FIRST CALLED ON MANAGER OF MCCORMACK PLACE, WHO TOLD THEM THAT HE HAD TALKED TO FOUR GROUPS WHICH HAD RESERVED SPACE AT THE TIME THE SOVIETS WANTED IT, BUT THEY WERE UNWILLING TO CHANGE THEIR DATES BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY PRINTED BROCHURES AND SOLD SPACE TO INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITORS. HE ALSO NOTED THAT SOVIETS HAD REQUESTED FORTY DAYS AND SAID THAT MCCORMACK PLACE DOES NOT RENT THAT MUCH TIME TO ANYBODY. SOVIETS WERE DISAPPOINTED AT THEIR INABILITY TO OBTAIN SPACE IN MCCORMACK PLACE, BUT BELIEVED THEY HAD DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO OBTAIN IT.

2. SOVIET DELEGATION VISITED THREE OTHER SITES IN CHICAGO, AND WILL CONTINUE ON TO LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOUSTON TO LOOK AT OTHER SITES. O'HARE INTERNATIONAL EX-

POSITION CENTER OFFERED TO OVERCOME SOVIET PROBLEM WITH CEILING HEIGHT BY RAISING HEIGHT OF PLANNED 50,000 SQUARE FOOT ADDITION WHICH WILL BE BUILT THIS YEAR. SOVIETS SEEMED INTERESTED IN THIS POSSIBILITY AND HAVE DISCUSSED SPECIFIC ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT COMMITTING THEMSELVES UNTIL THEY VIEWED SITES IN OTHER CITIES AND INFORMED MOSCOW.

3.----- O'HARE IS WILLING TO PROVIDE SPACE FROM OCTOBER 1 TO NOVEMBER 25, 1977, WITH ACTUAL SHOWING TIME OF ABOUT THREE-FOUR WEEKS. COST OF SPACE FOR THIS LENGTH OF TIME WOULD BE ABOUT DOLS 2.75 PER NET SQUARE FOOT (NET SQUARE FOOTAGE EQUALS ABOUT SIXTY PERCENT OF GROSS SQUARE FOOTAGE). PRICE WOULD INCLUDE, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CHARGE TO SOVIETS, STORAGE SPACE, GENERAL CLEANING, OFFICE SPACE, FIRST AID ROOM, OUTSIDE GUARD SERVICE, ELECTRICITY, AND FREE BUS SERVICE BETWEEN NEARBY HOTELS AND EXHIBIT HALL. SOVIETS WOULD BE ASKED TO TAKE OUT INSURANCE AT THEIR EXPENSE. SOVIETS ASKED IF PRICE COULD BE REDUCED TO DOLS 2.50 PER NET SQUARE FOOT, AND O'HARE MANAGER AGREED TO CONSIDER THIS IF SOVIETS DECIDED TO HOLD EXHIBIT AT O'HARE. SOVIETS ASKED IF IT POSSIBLE TO SET UP PRESS CENTER AND RUSSIAN RESTAURANT ON THE PREMISES, AND O'HARE MANAGER SAW NO DIFFICULTY IN DOING THIS. SOVIETS AND O'HARE WOULD SHARE TASK OF PUBLICIZING EXHIBIT. SOVIETS HOPE TO MAKE DECISION ON SITE BY APRIL 20. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, EXHIBITS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE087428
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WJKUSHLIS:JLR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760137-0217
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760474/aaaacflz.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 4595
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <02 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: 1977 SOVIET NATIONAL EXHIBIT
TAGS: OEXC, SCUL, UR, US
To: MOSCOW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006